# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:453
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2016
GM Crops
Joshi Shri Chandra Prakash

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:**

(a) the details of Genetically Modified (GM) crops/seeds approved for field trials in the country in the recent past;
(b) whether the Government proposes to grant permission for re-trial of 15-GM seeds as per the new norms;
(c) if so, the details thereof;
(d) whether the Government proposes to start a nation-wide discussion again by forming an expert committee to assess the advantages and disadvantages of genetically modified crops in view of the rising demands of foodgrains; and
(e) if so, the details thereof along with the names of GM crops which are permitted for cultivation and the outcome thereof?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) In India, the permission for conduct of confined field trials of GM crops (also referred as Genetically Engineered (GE) crops are approved by the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) as per "Rules for the manufacture, use, import, export & storage of hazardous micro organisms, genetically engineered organisms or cells, 1989" notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. GM cotton, corn, brinjal, maize, potato, rice & chickpea with insect resistance or herbicide tolerance or both have been approved for conduct of confined field trials in the country in the last three years.

(b)& (c) The permission for conduct of confined field trials of GM crops is given on a case by case basis after extensive review of the application by GEAC. There is neither a proposal nor any new norms to grant permission for re-trial of 15 GM seeds.

(d) GEAC is the apex committee consisting of representatives from the concerned ministries/departments and experts for regulation of GM crops on a case by case basis as per "Rules for the manufacture, use, import, export & storage of hazardous micro organisms, genetically engineered organisms or cells, 1989" notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The advantages/disadvantages of GM crops are reviewed on a case by case basis as part of evaluation process by GEAC and is ongoing process.

(e) As on date, Bt cotton is the only crop approved for commercial cultivation in India. Bt cotton hybrids containing five approved events are widely cultivated in India.